

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MAY 17, 2012 – 12:15 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Fafard, Mathanool, Dowling, Smith
Staff: Strother
Other: City Mayor Galbraith, Council Liaison Johnson, Eric Beeson, IT Staff;
Robert Frink, Citizen

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2012 AND WEB PAGE
SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2012

MOTION: To approve the April 27, 2012 minutes.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Mathanool.

Discussion followed and some members felt that they would like to have more time to review the minutes prior to approval and also provide the opportunity for Lian Obrey to comment since she attended the April 27th meeting but was not able to attend today's meeting.

The vote was 2 in favor (Fafard, Dowling), and 2 abstentions (Mathanool, Smith).
The Motion failed.

MOTION: To approve the Web Page Subcommittee Minutes of April 23, 2012.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Mathanool and so voted unanimously.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Discussion with Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Legislative Lobbyist Jay Levin

Chairman Fafard stated that he had received a last minute notice from Mr. Levin that he had a conflict arise and could not attend today's meeting. Mr. Levin will be invited back to a future meeting.

2. Website Update

The Web Page Subcommittee reviewed the work done to date on the Economic Development portion of the Town's web page and Eric Beeson and Brian Hancock provided an update on the changes and additions made since the last subcommittee meeting. The goal is to still try and go on line with the updated site on June 1st. Once staff has had the opportunity to review the site with Michael Murphy and Mark Oefinger, a press release will be prepared to announce when the new site will go live. The group would also like to attend a future Town Council meeting to review the changes. There will also be future additions, including the potential to highlight major

projects that are underway or upcoming. The group acknowledged the efforts provided by the IT staff, Barbara Strother and Robert Frink, who provided significant support, including writing the majority of the text.

Tracking usage pre and post the new site was also discussed. It was agreed that Barbara Strother will be the contact person for any updates that need to go to the IT staff for future updates.

3. Other

A. Zoning Commission Referral

Staff noted that a referral was received for a Zoning Commission special permit application after the EDC agenda package was sent out (June 6, 2012 Public Hearings).

MOTION: To add Zoning Commission Special Permit Application #328 to the EDC agenda.

Motion made Dowling, seconded by Smith, so voted unanimously.

Staff provided an overview of the special permit application, which is a proposal to modify Special Permit #206 to add 20 children to an existing 86-child daycare center. The applicant is TVCCA, and the site is at 38 Central Avenue, in the Fort Hill Homes neighborhood. After discussion, the following action was taken:

Special Permit #328, 38 Central Avenue (TVCCA, Applicant)

MOTION: The Economic Development Commission supports the proposed modification to Special Permit #206 to add 20 children to the TVCCA daycare center located at 38 Central Avenue. The EDC understands that other local review and approvals will be required.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Smith, so voted unanimously.

B. Crystal Lake Road Project

Staff noted that there will be a public informational meeting on May 24th on a proposed project for improvements to Crystal Lake Road. This is an important project as this is the main route of access to the Naval Submarine Base and the historic USS Nautilus/Submarine Force Library and Museum. In today's Day newspaper, Submarine Base Public Affairs Officer Chris Zendan noted that creating a buffer between the Base facilities and neighboring properties is also part of the scoring matrix that the military uses when assessing bases and making closure decisions. The 2006 Groton Strategic Economic Development Plan included a recommendation for the Submarine Base Gateway Project which included attention to Crystal Lake Road and its intersection with

Military Highway and Route 12, multi-modal links between the Base and Navy Housing areas (Bikeway), and other gateway improvements.

MOTION: To add the Crystal Lake Road Project to the Agenda

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Smith, so voted unanimously

MOTION: The Economic Development Commission continues to support the proposed Crystal Lake Road Project, which was included in the 2006 Groton Strategic Economic Development Plan and has been further defined since that document was completed. The EDC believes this is an important project for the Base now and in the future.

Motion made by Fafard, seconded by Dowling, so voted unanimously.

C. Town Council Goals

Councilor Johnson noted that the Town Council held a Goal Setting session this week and economic development was discussed, including the Town Council holding meetings with the EDC and staff.

D. New City Businesses

Mayor Galbraith provided an update on new businesses that recently opened in the City of Groton.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

George Mathanool Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Barbara Strother
Economic Development Specialist